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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

COUNTRY USSR/Iran

DATE DISTR. 27 April 1955

SUBJECT 1. Soviet Border Guard Troops Supply
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2. Soviet Army Medical Services

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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SOURCE [REDACTED]

Medical Procedures

About February 1952, at the Voenkomat in Lunino (N 53-35, E 45-13), source underwent his initial pre-induction medical examination which was quite complete and included a chest X-ray; rectal examination; vision and color perception test; eyes, ear, and throat check; and hearing and urinalysis check. The examining personnel consisted of civilian doctors, both male and female, from the rayon civil hospital. Although source could not recall exactly, he believed that he subsequently received several further but less thorough physical examinations at the Voenkomat. Following his induction at Penza (N 53-12, E 45-01) [REDACTED] he received another complete and thorough medical examination, similar to the previous one but without X-rays, on [REDACTED] at the induction center. To the best of his knowledge, the examining personnel here consisted exclusively of civilian women doctors.

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[REDACTED] after his arrival at the 42d [REDACTED] in Gaurat (N 39-31, E 47-00), and while undergoing basic training there, source received another complete medical examination, including a chest X-ray, at the 42d Border Guard Detachment dispensary. He also received shots of an unknown nature twice while at this unit between [REDACTED]

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When source served with the 3d Border Guard [redacted] from [redacted] 50X1
 [redacted] he received no further medical examinations. He 50X1
 was only given two other shots of an unknown type by a medical border
 guard captain from the 1st Komendatura who came to source's unit.
 Source did not remember receiving any first aid or other medical
 training.

3. The medical personnel at the 42d Border Guard Detachment consisted of a female medical border guard major who checked ears, nose, throat, and eyes, took X-rays, and gave shots; a male medical border senior lieutenant, who conducted the rest of the physical examination; a male medical border guard lieutenant colonel who wrote down the results; and a border guard private who acted as an assistant. Source did not remember them wearing distinctive medical metallic insignia. He encountered no other female medical personnel besides those previously mentioned.

4. [redacted] 1st Komendatura to which source was assigned 50X1
 had no medical facilities whatsoever. Border guard troops of his unit merely carried a first-aid packet containing cotton and bandage. There were no medical facilities at the parent Komendatura, except that the medical captain was stationed there. The nearest medical facility consisted of a small medical group and a dispensary, was at the 42d Border Guard Detachment Hq. 1

Source was afflicted with a sore throat while traveling from Penza to Gadrut. Upon arrival at the 42d Border Guard Detachment, he reported to an officer and was sent to the dispensary where he remained for five days on a cot. His temperature was taken and he was given three sorts of bitter-tasting pills, either magenta, yellow, or white in color, three times a day but he received no further treatment.

5. At the 42d Border Guard Detachment, tap water was used for drinking, while at the 1st Komendatura and at [redacted] all 50X1
 drinking water came from a well. Inasmuch as source underwent basic training during winter, he did not drink any water not drawn from canteen sources. When asked if he ate snow when thirsty, he replied in the negative, stating that this would have caused him to catch cold. When on patrol duty, border guard troops in source's zastava took along one canteen each. Water was never rationed nor were salt tablets given.

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Unit Supply and Maintenance

6. The only supplies source observed being transported from the 1st 50X1
 Komendatura to the [redacted] were potatoes, flour, oats for the horses, kerosene for lamps, and clothes. The latter item was only brought in once, in May 1954, to replace worn-out clothing items. All the above supplies were brought in on GAZ-51 trucks belonging to the komendatura.

7. Along the USSR-Iranian border where source served, the main line of the Trans-Caucasian Railroad ran within 600 yards of his unit. Meat was sent from the 1st Komendatura by rail and in metal containers; the komendatura would advise source's [redacted] by phone ahead of the time 50X1
 that the meat was to be shipped. When the train arrived at a point near the [redacted] a komendatura soldier known as the conveyor or 50X1
 carrier (razvozchik) would throw the meat containers off the train. Finally, a zastava border guard patrol would pick up the containers. Mail, in bundles, was delivered in a similar manner.

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9. The only organic transportation in [redacted] 50X1
[redacted] They were only used to haul fodder
and manure. However, it was unofficially rumored in his unit that
in case of an alert or a sudden outbreak of hostilities along the 50X1.
border, these carts would be used to evacuate zastava equipment and
property. Source also observed horse-drawn carts at both the 1st
Komendatura and the 42d Border Guard Detachment but could give no
estimates as to the number.

10. The only POL supply used at source's zastava was kerosene for
lamps. There was no electricity because the wind-driven generator
never worked. The kerosene was kept in one metal drum weighing
approximately 100 kg which stood in a shed with other supplies. It
was brought in periodically by truck from the komendatura. He knew
nothing of POL matters at higher border guard unit levels.

11. Source's unit had no maintenance facilities whatsoever. Once a month
the komendatura sent an EM shoe repairman who repaired shoes on the
spot at the zastava. During source's four months' service with the
3d Border Guard Zastava, the 42d Border Guard Detachment once sent
a weapons repair EM, a corporal, to his unit. The corporal checked
all weapons for accuracy and repaired on the spot those in need of
repair.

12. Supply and Maintenance of Individual Equipment

a. Initial issue - Source received the following items of individual
equipment at a border guard supply installation at Goradiz
(N 39-27, E 47-13) on [redacted] 50X1

<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
1	Overcoat	Wool and cotton	Gray	New - Three years wear-out period
1	Winter cap	Canvas, fur-trimmed	Gray and black	New - Three years wear-out period
1	Pullover tunic	Cotton	Olive drab	New - Six months wear-out period
1 pr	Breeches	Cotton	Olive drab	New - Six months wear-out period
1 pr	Boots	Canvas top, rubber soles, leather bottoms	Black	New - Eight months wear-out period
1 pr	Footwraps (summer)	Cotton	White	New - Source did not remember wear-out period
1 set	Long underwear (light)	Cotton	White	Exchanged for clean set at bathtime (every 10 days)
1	Barracks bag	Canvas	Dark green	New - Three years wear-out period
1	Belt, wide, Web for tunic		Olive drab	New - Three years wear-out period

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<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
1	Belt, for trousers	Web	Olive drab	New - Three years wear-out period

b. Issue during basic training at the 42d Border Guard Detachment:

<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
1	Short coat	Quilted cotton	Green	New - Three years wear-out period
1 pr	Footwraps (winter)	Cotton	White	New - Source did not remember wear-out period
4 pr	Shoulder boards		Light green with magenta piping	New - Three years wear-out period
1 set	Long winter under-wear	Cotton	White	To be exchanged at time of baths
1 pr	Gloves	Canvas	Brown	New - For winter only
1	Towel	Cotton	White	To be exchanged at time of baths
3	Under-collars	Linen	White	New - Three years wear-out period
3	Handkerchiefs	Cotton	White	New - Six months wear-out period
1	Subtropical breeches (sharivary)	Cotton	Whitish green	Used - Only for basic training and turned in afterwards
1	Coat, sub-tropical (blouse with single row of buttons)	Cotton	Whitish green	Used - Same as above
1	Carbine			Used - Same as above
1	Ammo pouch with five blank shells			Used - Same as above

c. First issue at unit - Upon his arrival at his unit, the 3d Border Guard Zastava, source received a carbine with 60 rounds of ammunition, two grenades, a pillow, a cot, a mattress, two sheets, and a blanket as well as the following items:

<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
1	Fur coat	Sheepskin	White	Not issued individually, only for patrol duty.

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<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
1	Raincoat	Canvas	Green	When indicated by weather
1 pr	Boots and galoshes	Felt		When indicated by weather

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d.

about March 1954, source had to turn in 30 of the previously issued 60 rounds of ammunition as well as the two hand grenades. Source stated that the entire unit was officially notified of these changes which were read to them by the unit CO. In May 1954 at the 3d Border Guard [redacted] source turned in his gloves and one pair of footwraps, and received in exchange one new pullover tunic, one new pair of breeches, and the following items:

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<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
1	Cap	Cotton and wool	Green at top with magenta piping, black vizor	None
1 set	Short summer underwear	Cotton	Blue	None
3 pr	Footwraps	Cotton	White	None

- e. Ammunition Issue - In addition to his normal training as an ordinary border guard soldier, source was also designated and trained as an assistant LMG gunner. The LMGs were always kept in the barracks except for training and alerts. They were not used for border guard duty or on parades. The ammunition provided for the LMG comprised a box containing three magazines of 47 rounds each.
- f. Charges for Loss of Equipment -Source was told by his first sergeant that if any clothing or equipment was lost before the wear-out period, corresponding deductions would be made in the soldier's pay. This was supposed to keep border guard troops from either losing or selling their clothing.

Rations

The following typical ration was served at both the 42d Border Guard Detachment and at the 3d Border Guard Zastava, the only difference being that second helpings were available at the zastava. On holidays a little bit more meat was served.

<u>Breakfast</u>	<u>Dinner</u>	<u>Supper</u>
300 grams of Bread	300 grams of bread,	Same as breakfast
Gruel or mush	soup	
Tea and 25 grams of sugar	50 grams of meat; potatoes or gruel	

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Military Stores

14. Both the 42d Border Guard Detachment and the 1st Komendatura had a PX, but there was none at [redacted]. The PX at the detachment was open only to border guard personnel and their families. It sold clothing, uniforms and uniform accessories, cloth, tobacco wares, candy, stationery, shaving and toilet articles, as well as such foods as cookies, butter, and macaroni. No other luxury items or liquor were available. Source only remembered the prices of the following articles: cookies, 15 rubles a kilogram; candy, 11 rubles a kilogram; a safety razor, 11.70 rubles; and razor blades, 30 kopeks each. 50X1
15. The komendatura PX in Mendzhevan (N 39-04, E 46-85), which was inside the komendatura caserne, was open to everyone: border guard personnel, army personnel, and even local inhabitants. However, the latter were not allowed into the PX proper but had to make their purchases through a window. This PX sold butter, macaroni, sugar, candy, cloth, and military caps, among other items. Source had to buy another razor there, because the one he had purchased at the 42d Border Guard Detachment had become unserviceable after a few months, and he believed that prices at the komendatura PX were slightly lower than those at the detachment. The difference, however, amounted to only a few kopeks on an average item.

Finance

6. Source received 30 rubles a month. At the [redacted] one ruble a month was deducted ten months each year for a government loan. Source's officer for line matters at the [redacted] who was a genial person, told source and other border guard troops of his unit that [redacted] CO received 1,700 rubles a month and that he himself received 1,300 rubles a month. He did not mention the amount of deductions from this. From hearsay, source knew that his first sergeant, a re-enlistee senior sergeant acting as first sergeant, received 300 [redacted] rubles a month. He thought that sergeants received from 150 to 200 rubles a month, but he did not know how much was deducted. 50X1
7. In source [redacted] either toward the end of the month or at the beginning of the following month. Sometimes a 1st Komendatura officer, a senior lieutenant, would bring the money to the zastava and pay EM informally in [redacted]. At other times, either the zastava CO, in person, or the first sergeant would pick up the money at the komendatura and would pay EM in either the CO's office or the first sergeant's room. There was no fixed ceremony or routine with respect to pay. Source did not know how border guard officers received their pay. 50X1
1. Comment: [redacted] additional information from another source on low-level border guard medical facilities. 50X1
2. Comment: Because of his very limited military background, source was only familiar with such scant data on supply organization and procedure as he happened to observe during his short service in the border guard troops. He understood the term "rear area" to mean only the territory of the USSR behind the border zones. Source had never heard the term quartermaster troops (intendantskiye voyska). Therefore, although asked all questions of this brief, he could only supply limited information. 50X1

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